



Burmester okays 2007 preliminary LSTA grant program and budget

By Peg Branson, Consultant,
LSTA Program and Continuing Education
Public Library Development Team

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster approved the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program and preliminary budget for 2007. The LSTA funds will, once again, facilitate innovation, demonstration, and enhanced library services in Wisconsin. LSTA applications for 2007 are due September 13, 2006, and are submitted online.

Two special studies are proposed for LSTA funding in 2007. One study will address the economic impact of taxpayer investment in Wisconsin's public libraries. The other study will consider the advantages and disadvantages, including the costs and impact on resource sharing policies, processes, and delivery, of schools joining existing public library shared integrated library systems or developing new shared systems formed by CESAs or other regional groups.

Among the other grant categories to be funded in 2007* are:

- Library System Technology Projects – \$370,000 (noncompetitive)
- Shared Integrated Library Information Systems – \$275,000 (noncompetitive)
- Virtual Reference – \$70,100 (noncompetitive)
- Digitization – \$35,000 (competitive)
- Delivery Services – \$75,000 (noncompetitive)
- Literacy – \$230,000 (competitive)
- Sensory Disabilities – \$125,000 (competitive)

*The grant categories and the dollar amounts may be revised on the basis of the total dollars available, applications submitted, and other factors, before final awards are made.

Additional information on the LSTA grant categories, including the *LSTA Information and Guidelines for Wisconsin 2007*, is available on the LSTA website at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/pld/pdf/guide07.pdf>. Contact Peg Branson, LSTA Program Coordinator, for more information. ☼

State superintendent appoints new LSTA Advisory Committee members

By Peg Branson, Consultant,
LSTA Program and Continuing Education
Public Library Development Team

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced new appointments to the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) Advisory Committee in March. The new members are Phyllis Davis, Director, South Central Library System; Terry Dawson, Director, Appleton Public Library; Jim Gingery, Director, Milwaukee County Federated Library System; Jane Pearlmuter, Associate Director, UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies; and Zora Sampson, Director, Library / Information, Instructional Technology, UW Barron County, Rice Lake.

Continuing members of the committee are Becca Berger, Director, Door County Library; Walter Burkhalter, Director, Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System; Fred Marini, District Media Director, Melrose-Mindoro School District; Rhonda Puntney, Youth Services/ Special Needs Coordinator,

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New law improves public library operation and efficiency

By **John DeBacher**, Public Library Administration Consultant
Public Library Development Team

On March 27, 2006, the governor signed 2005 Act 226, which will lower costs for library operations, improve organizational efficiency of library services in the state, and provide greater clarity in Wisconsin library laws. The bill (Senate Bill 273) was based on recommendations of State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster's Task Force on Public Library Legislation and Funding. The task force, which included broad representation of the statewide public library community as well as citizen and legislative members, conducted a comprehensive review of issues facing Wisconsin's 387 public libraries and 17 library systems and made recommendations for statutory improvements.

"I want to thank Gov. Jim Doyle for signing this bill, and Sen. Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan) and Rep. Stephen Freese (R-Dodgeville) for their efforts in advancing legislation that will help our libraries better serve the citizens of Wisconsin," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "The bill that passed through both houses of the Legislature without amendment

represents long-term efforts by task force members and the library community."

2005 Senate Bill 273, referred to as the "language bill," was designed to update and make technical changes to the language in Chapter 43 relating to public libraries and public library systems. A second bill (SB 272, the "reform bill") includes Task Force recommendations related to the organization and funding of public libraries and library systems. That bill was passed by both houses of the legislature and forwarded to the Governor.

Some of the provisions of Senate Bill 273 include changes in the funding relationship between counties and municipal or joint libraries, such as:

- Exclusion of any funding by the county for library capital expenses from the calculation of the levy rate required for municipal exemption from the county library levy.
- Expansion of county board authority to appoint members to a municipal or joint library board. Previously, only one or two additional members could be appointed; this bill provides that up to five additional members may be appointed, depending on the ratio

of county funding to municipal funding of the public library.

- Clarification that a municipal or joint public library board entitled to a county payment for library services may direct the county to credit all or a portion of the payment to a county library service or library system for shared services.

Other changes to Chapter 43 relate to the library board's operation and management of funds:

- Clarification that any amount spent for capital projects by a municipal, county, or joint public library will be excluded from the financial support level, or "maintenance of effort," required for participation in a public library system.
- Regular wages or salary or other recurrent payments authorized by the library board may be paid by the appropriate municipal or county, official, provided that the specific payments be audited and approved by

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LSTA Advisory Committee — from page 1

Lakeshores Library System; Veronica Thompson, Library Media Specialist, Rufus King High School, Milwaukee; Terrance Burton, Director, Ebling Library, UW-Madison; Paula Kiely, Deputy City Librarian, Milwaukee Public Library; Paul Onufrak, Automation Librarian, Eastern Shores Library System; and Elizabeth Richmond, Associate Professor/Reference Librarian, UW-Eau Claire.

Members on the committee serve staggered three-year terms. The

committee advises the state superintendent and the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning on the development of the long-range plan for the LSTA program, annual grant priorities and categories, and applications and recommendations for grant awards.

More information on the LSTA program is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/lsta.html>. ☼



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Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries to editor Roslyn Wise at (608) 266-6439 (roslyn.wise@dpi.state.wi.us). To make mailing list changes, contact Peg Branson at (608) 266-2413 (peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us).

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New law — from page 2

- the library board at its next regular meeting. The change will allow library employees to be paid in a more timely fashion and allow regular bills to be paid without incurring late fees.
- In addition to the option for a library board to invest its gift or endowment funds as provided under the Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act, the bill allows investment of such funds in the manner allowed for surplus funds of a municipality, county, school or technical college district.
 - Municipal, joint, or county public libraries may provide remote access to electronic databases only to its residents. Previously, if a library were to contract for remote access to commercial databases, state law required that access be extended to all residents of the public library system service area.
 - The time frame allowed for the annual election of officers by a library board is extended from 30 days to 60 days from the date upon which regular appointments become effective.
 - The language now more clearly requires that the library annual report must report on all funds under library board control.

Finally, the legislation clarifies language in Chapter 43. In many places wording was added, deleted, or altered to simplify or clarify meaning. For instance, two specific dates in the statutes that were no longer relevant were removed, and the method and condition under which a public library may refuse to honor a library card issued by a library in an adjacent library system is now more clearly stated.

All of the changes established in Senate Bill 273 can be reviewed in 2005 Wisconsin Act 226: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/acts/05Act226.pdf>. The legislation took effect on April 10, 2006, when Act 226 was published. ☼

Statewide Resource Contacts

Cooperative Children's Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706
ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/
Kathleen Horning, Director (608) 263-3720

Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan

814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233-2385
Brian Hannemann, Interlibrary Loan Librarian (414) 286-3082

WILS/Interlibrary Loan

728 State Street, Rooms 464 and B106B, Madison, WI 53706-1494
schneid@wils.wisc.edu <http://www.wils.wisc.edu/>
Kathy Schneider, Director (608) 263-2773

Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

813 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/rll/bphinfo.html>
Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian (800) 242-8822

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Interlibrary Loan Services 224-6163

Vickie Long

WISCAT User Support 224-5394

Wisconsin Child Care Information Center

Lita Haddal, Director (800) 362-7353 or (608) 224-5388

To send e-mail, use the following format (all lowercase letters):
firstname.lastname@dpi.state.wi.us

BadgerLink training available to fit every schedule

By Vickie Long, WISCAT User Support
Reference and Loan Library

New resources and vendor updates to BadgerLink databases make it an evolving treasure for Wisconsin residents and libraries. Simply learning what resources are available on BadgerLink is worthwhile. Being able to search them effectively helps library staff answer reference questions and assist their patrons to search those resources themselves.



Finding time to travel to staff training opportunities may be difficult if not impossible for some. Happily, alternative training is available in a variety of formats and durations. Tutorials on the web take between 2.5 to 7 minutes each, web training sessions are typically 1 to 1.5 hours, and on-site training varies between 1 hour to a half-day. Online documentation or training guides are made available by all vendors of the BadgerLink resources.

Tutorials

EBSCO has web-based tutorials—most take less than 3 minutes to view at <http://support.ebsco.com/training/tutorials.php>

Web Training

Several vendors offer online training. ProQuest web training relevant to BadgerLink resources includes ProQuest Introduction, ProQuest Newspapers, African American Biographical Database, Ethnic News Watch, and ProQuest Local Administrator. The description of each is found within the alphabetical listing at <http://placeware.viewcentral.com/events/cust/catalog.aspx?cid=proquest&pid=1>. If no session is currently scheduled, a link is provided to request the course be offered.

To see when EBSCO online training is available for registration, use the form at http://training.ebsco.com/training_request.asp to select either the EBSCOhost Research Databases service or the EBSCOadmin option, a new field will display the date and time of available sessions.

LitFINDER online training may be requested by contacting Melissa Behrens at (800) 877-4253 ext. 8810 or email melissa.behrens@thomson.com

On-Site Vendor Training

Arrange to have a trainer come to your library!

A computer lab and 5 or more library staff or patrons to attend the hands-on training are all that is required. EBSCO,

ProQuest, and LitFINDER (Thomson Gale) may be contacted to schedule on-site training staff. *EBSCO contact:* Karen Hedge at 800-653-2726 ext. 592 or email khedge@epnet.com to make an appointment for local group training.

ProQuest contact: Vickie

Hutchinson at (415) 383-3550 or by email at vhutchinson@il.proquest.com to make an appointment for local group training.

LitFINDER contact: Andrea Muncy at 800-877-4253 ext. 2226 or by email at andrea.muncy@thomson.com.

Public Library Staff — On-Site Gates Grant Funded Training

Linda Miller of LMA Techwork has developed and will provide hands-on training specifically designed for public library staff. A Gates Foundation grant funds this computer training for staff in public libraries that received computers from an earlier Gates grant. Linda's training pulls together BadgerLink resources from several vendors into a comprehensive session. This year, training is available on Newspapers, Humanities, Ethnic Information, and an *all new* Resources for Kids. A computer lab is necessary and 8 or more public library staff to attend a session. Each session is described online at <http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/GatesTraining.pdf>. Schedule one or more of these subject specific sessions by contacting Vickie Long at (toll free) 888-542-5543 press 1 or email vickie.long@dpi.state.wi.us

Documentation

TeachingBooks.com provides a user manual at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/content/UsersManual.pdf> and a variety of training resources on its website at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/show.cgi?f=training#ITR>.

LitFINDER user guide may be viewed or downloaded at http://www.gale.com/pdf/navguide/LitFinder_nvlg.pdf

ProQuest user guides are available online at <http://training.proquest.com/trc/training/index.htm>

Please see BadgerLink — on page 5

Districts focus on technology, use data collection to improve teaching and learning

By Stuart Ciske, Education Technology Consultant
Instructional Media and Technology Team

Nearly 50 educators and administrators representing twenty districts from across the state are in the midst of participating in the enGauge® process through use of an online survey that gauges participants' perceptions of the use of technology and its impact on teaching and learning in their district.

Participating this spring in the enGauge® professional development program are educators from: Amery, Boscobel, Chetek, East Troy, Hudson, LaFarge, Luck, Menomonie, Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton, Port Edwards, Port Washington-Saukville, Ripon, Sauk Prairie, Silver Lake-Salem Jt.#1, Somerset, Sun Prairie, Viroqua, and West DePere

Information obtained during an enGauge® project, which consists of online and on-site data collection (surveys and peer evaluations), enables districts to analyze data from different stakeholder groups with a goal of leveraging technology use in district teaching and learning situations. This data collection and analysis can also inform on efforts aimed at district wide information (library media) and technology planning, curriculum revision, school improvement, and professional development.

While an enGauge® project benefits a district's ability to collect and analyze data centering on use of technology and its impact on teaching and learning in their district, educators who conduct the interviews and data analysis also receive high-quality professional development in program evaluation, integration of technology into the curriculum, team-building and leadership.

According to Learning Point Associates (LPA), results from their external evaluation report on enGauge® implementation and impact indicates that nearly all districts that have completed the enGauge® Professional Development program have made concrete changes to policies, planning, or professional development as a result of their learning and their findings.

North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium (NCRTEC) staff at LPA also report that Wisconsin is by far the leader across the nation in the use of the enGauge® toolset. By the end of the 2005-06 school year, 294 of 426 districts in the state (about 70 percent of districts) will have trained teams and completed both the online and on-site portion of enGauge®. Over 30 districts participated in enGauge® this past fall.

"It is great to see such a high number of districts taking advantage of the comprehensive toolset and training offered jointly by Learning Point Associates, NCRTEC, DPI and the

CESAs," said Richard Grobschmidt, Assistant State Superintendent – Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning. "Using this program enables our local educators and school leaders to get a firm grasp on not only how information and technology can influence student learning, but also how to implement technology to have a lasting impact on teaching and learning."

Participants from districts this spring will gather for training sessions in May to learn how to analyze their data and results, report findings and create plans to address identified needs when they return to their districts. About two-thirds of the twenty districts will complete the online only portion of the process. The other districts will complete both the online and onsite portions.

For additional information on enGauge® see the website at <http://www.ncrel.org/engage> or contact Stuart Ciske at 608-267-9289 or stuart.ciske@dpi.state.wi.us.

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EBSCO provides user guides, Help sheets, FAQs, and teacher guides for many of its products. To access this documentation use the Knowledge Base browse or advanced search options to select EBSCOhost Research Databases, EBSCOadmin, Kids Search, or Student Research Center. The dropdown Services menu at <http://support.epnet.com/index.php> may also be used to select the resources included in the current BadgerLink contract.

BadgerLink News

Updates, changes, and all things BadgerLink are posted to the BadgerLink email list which is designed to facilitate communication between the DPI staff working on the BadgerLink program and users in schools, academic institutions and libraries. To subscribe to the list, send a blank email to join-badgerlinklist@lists.wi.gov. No subject line or message please. You should receive a confirmation notice by email.

Best Practices for Public Libraries -- Communication is Key

A clear understanding of staff, director, and board relationship is essential for effective public library operation.

By John DeBacher, Public Library Administration Consultant
Public Library Development Team

Wisconsin is fortunate to have library law that establishes the duties and authority of the library board and the library director. But library directors and their boards should be careful not to let a string of uneventful board meetings lead to a sense of complacency. Smooth sailing can sometimes lead to assumptions about the library's direction. The library can too easily run aground on the shoals of misunderstanding if constant communication is not maintained to keep the library on its course.

Guidelines for the Library Board

The library board must balance its duty to oversee ongoing library operations with its long-term responsibility of charting the library's future course. Within that context, library policies must be developed and reviewed to maintain relevance and currency. To carry out this leadership role effectively, the board should be concerned with the library's administration, but must not become mired in the minutia of day-to-day operations.

The trustees should recognize that the library director is responsible to direct the activities of the staff and carry out the library program. The trustees should avoid the temptation to assign or direct the duties of individual staff, or to interfere in the staff hiring process except to approve job descriptions and establish personnel policies. If trustees hear complaints about the performance of library staff, they should take those concerns to the library director. Staff complaints should be directed to the library director; however, the board should have a grievance procedure in place for staff concerns that have exhausted the internal appeals process. The board should expect regular reports of human resource problems and concerns from the library director.

Library Director Awareness

Library directors should be sensitive to the fact that the library operates in the social and political context of the community and that the library board may have social or work relationships with library staff members. Since the trustees are often active library users, the board will have

regular interaction with the library staff. The director should keep the board apprised of the library staff and the relationship of those positions to the library program. The director should make opportunities for the library board to become acquainted with the staff and aware of their strengths and ongoing professional development. While directors should be sensitive to the relationship the trustees have in the community and the political climate, they must insist upon established channels for communication, with the director as the conduit for communications about library operations between the library board and the staff.

Library Staff Expectations

Clear job descriptions, regular staff meetings with employee participation, and ongoing supervision and direction keep library staff members actively involved and aware of their roles and responsibilities. A staff manual that is regularly reviewed and updated by the library board and consistently implemented by the director provides a framework to effectively address problems as they arise. The library's personnel policies should also allow for a grievance process that goes beyond the library director and should include provisions to obtain staff input on hours, work provisions, and duties. The library board may wish to explore means to obtain input from the staff for the director's performance evaluation, but only as a part of a comprehensive review process. Finally, library staff members should have opportunity for ongoing training, education, and, whenever possible, options for career advancement.

Through effective communication and considerate understanding of the individual roles, the library board, the director, and the staff can all operate effectively to develop and provide quality service to the community. Maintaining the communication can sustain an atmosphere that fosters continued development to meet future needs and permits all to share in the accomplishments.

Best Practices is an occasional column addressing general issues facing public library directors and their boards. If you have issues or ideas for future columns, please contact John DeBacher at (608)266-7270 or john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us. ☼

Division funds digitization of local resources

By Sally Drew, Director
Reference and Loan Library

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning used Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to digitize local resources in 2005 and 2006. In both years the Division worked with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) to carry the projects awarded.

The UWDCC staff provided a full day of training which covered the project schedules set for each grant, copyright issues, the process of packaging, shipping and handling materials, how to create metadata, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), reformatting materials for web production, sustainability and scalability, and other subjects. Each grant participant then met with an assigned consultant to review any issues associated with the sample materials they had brought with them. The UWDCC staff are responsible for scanning materials, metadata creation for books, formatting scanned materials and metadata for web publication, development and maintenance of the State of Wisconsin Collection website, delivery to libraries of high resolution images, and ongoing work necessary to maintain digitized content. All materials are added to the State of Wisconsin Collection.

UWDCC Librarian and Project Manager, Vicki Tobias, states "Working with Wisconsin public libraries on the LSTA projects has been a wonderful opportunity for our group to share its expertise related to building digital collections and, at the same time, build partnerships

with and learn more about the use of digital resources at public libraries throughout the state."

In 2005, seven projects were awarded to public libraries in the following communities: Appleton, Fond du Lac, Janesville (Hedberg Public Library), Lake Geneva, Manitowoc, Marathon County, and Oshkosh. Materials selected for digitization included plat maps, atlases, local histories, city and county directories, pamphlets, photo albums, image collections that document historic locations, structures, people, and events within these communities.

In 2006, seven projects were awarded to public libraries in the following communities: Appleton, Manitowoc, Madison, Neenah, Sheboygan (Mead Public Library), and the Nicolet Federated Library System counties of Brown, Door, Keweenaw, and Shawano. Materials selected for digitization included city directories, historical plat maps and atlases, historic building surveys, community anniversary celebrations, agricultural statistics and surveys, local industry catalogs, community histories, community photographs, and other historical books and materials.

The State of Wisconsin Collection can be found at <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WI/>

Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO) moves ahead

The Wisconsin Heritage Online structure has begun to take shape with several important announcements at the Digital

Planning Meeting hosted by Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) on March 23, 2006.

Ken Frazier announced on behalf of the University of Wisconsin Madison Libraries, that \$50,000 would be contributed in 2007 to help get WHO off the ground. UW-Madison is developing a metadata harvester that will bring together metadata from various projects hosted by libraries. Users will be able to search this information using a single basic interface.

Paul Hedges reported that the Wisconsin Historical Society will host a central ContentDM site for libraries with small collections that do not want to host their own site. Wisconsin Historical Society will host a static web page for each institution hosted. There will be a set-up fee, but the Wisconsin Historical Society plans to absorb storage costs.

Sally Drew indicated that the Reference and Loan Library would continue to develop an annotated database of a Wisconsin Digital Library Collections that would be searchable. This database would include digitized library collections created by Wisconsin libraries, about Wisconsin generally, and Wisconsin history. The database is available through the BadgerLink home page at <http://who.badgerlink.net/agurl.asp?>

The WiLS Board approved the expenditure of \$25,000 at its Board Meeting on April 6, 2006. This amount will help move the initiative forward. ✪

“Reform Bill” passes both houses of Legislature

By **Mike Cross**, Director
Public Library Development Team

Senate Bill 272, the “reform bill” based on the recommendations of the State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster’s Task Force on Library Legislation and Funding, has passed both houses of the legislature and now goes to the Governor. Senate Bill 272 includes Task Force recommendations related to the organization and funding of public libraries and library systems.

Provisions of SB 272 that relate to library funding are:

- The extension to adjacent counties of the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.12 (the 70% minimum reimbursement responsibility). Under this provision, beginning in 2008, libraries in adjacent counties, including adjacent counties across library system borders (but excluding the Milwaukee County Federated Library System) would be reimbursed by adjacent counties for library use by residents of each of those counties who do not maintain a public library. This provision first applies to payments made by March 1, 2008, for library service provided in 2006 and reported to county clerks by July 1, 2007. Shared Integrated Library Systems should make sure that they can generate circulation reports for member libraries to establish patron use in adjacent counties that distinguishes residents of municipalities that do not maintain a public library.
- A provision that would allow a county board to implement a reciprocal borrowing reimbursement plan as part of the county library plan. A municipality that does not comply with the reciprocal borrowing plan could be denied

exemption from the county library tax. The per-transaction level of compensation required under the reciprocal borrowing reimbursement plan could not exceed the actual costs of providing the services.

Changes that relate to the organization and funding of public library systems are:

- A prohibition on the creation of additional public library systems.
- A requirement that if a public library system has fewer than three counties and a population under 200,000 (currently 100,000) as a result of the withdrawal or realignment of participating counties, the remaining parts of the system shall realign with an existing system within 2 years after the date on which the population falls below 200,000.
- A streamlined mechanism to merge two library systems, now requiring the approval of the public library system boards and the county boards of all counties participating in both of the public library systems to be included in the merged system.
- Modification of Section 43.24(6) to allow more flexibility to the Department of Public Instruction in recommending how state funding at the 13% index level may be requested.

Changes that create new requirements for a library’s participation in a library system are:

- A requirement that a public library pay the certified head librarian for a minimum of 10 regularly scheduled hours per week of work in the library building during time the library is open to the public.
- A requirement that a public library provide a public library facility open to the public a minimum annual average of 20 hours per week by the

year 2008. However, existing public libraries continue to qualify for library system membership even if the library is open less than 20 hours per week, so long as the library is open no fewer hours than the library was open during 2005. New libraries will be required to be open at least 20 hours per week by 2008 in order to qualify for library system membership.

- A requirement that a public library annually spend a minimum of \$2,500 on library materials by the year 2008.

Changes that relate to the organization of joint public libraries are:

- A requirement that new, modified or renewed joint library agreements have a provision for review and adjustment of the number of library board appointments allocated to each participant based on the latest federal decennial census.
- A requirement that new, modified or renewed joint library agreements provide that one of the participant organizations agree to act as the fiscal agent for the library, handle the payroll and benefit administration for library staff, pay library insurance costs, and handle library financial record-keeping and auditing. Documented costs for providing these services may be included toward the participant’s required financial support for the library.
- A requirement that new, modified or renewed joint library agreements provide a procedure for division of assets and liabilities in case the joint library is dissolved.

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Wisconsin Resource Sharing and Information Access RFP released

By **Sally Drew**, Director
Reference and Loan Library

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next generation Wisconsin Resource Sharing and Information Access system was released April 4. The RFP asks vendors to submit proposals for three primary functions (physical union catalog, virtual catalog, and interlibrary loan system) and two secondary functions (federated search portal and cataloging). The deadline for submission of proposals is June 1,

2006. The process will include an opportunity for invited participants to serve as Subject Matter Experts who will view vendor demonstrations and provide written feedback to the RFP evaluation team. The vendor demonstrations are tentatively scheduled for July 13, 14, 17, and 18. Invited participants will be drawn from various DPI library advisory committees and other library groups. A more detailed schedule of vendor demonstrations should be available in mid-June. The vendor selection

and negotiation processes will likely take place in August and September, 2006. Sally Drew, Director, Reference and Loan Library, is coordinating the RFP process for the Department of Public Instruction.

The RFP is posted on VendorNet for commercial vendors and other responders. It is also available in PDF format on the Reference and Loan Library website at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/rll/indill.html> and the WISCAT website at <http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/index.html>. ☼

Governor Doyle declares April 24 Ask?Away Day

By **Mary Struckmeyer**, Reference and Interlibrary Loan Team Leader,
Reference and Loan Library

To commemorate the statewide implementation of Wisconsin's virtual reference service, Governor Jim Doyle proclaimed Monday, April 24, Ask?Away Day. Fifteen out of 17 public library systems and 14 academic libraries are participating as full partners in the Ask?Away consortium, which is part of



A cooperative service of Wisconsin Libraries

the global QuestionPoint 24/7 Reference Service. In the proclamation, Governor Doyle urges "everyone to use the statewide virtual reference service and take advantage of this important and wonderful service that contributes so

from the global cooperative.

Libraries or library systems that pay an additional fee for the software have access to an email reference system, a global knowledge base of reference questions and answers, and the opportunity to follow up on chat sessions initially handled by members of the global consortium. Wisconsin librarians contribute to the global service by answering questions for the national consortium for a total of 40+ hours a week.

Comments from users around the country range from "very cool," to "quick and easy" to "wonderful." One user responded simply "Wow!"

To learn more about the service, see the general information site on the Web at <http://www.wils.wisc.edu/VR/> or the Virtual Library Publicity Kit at <http://www.askaway.info/librarykit/>. ☼



Reference and Loan staff members (left to right) Loretta Harmatuck, Jeanne Otteson, Mary Struckmeyer, June Huizenga, and Vickie Long (seated) celebrate Ask?Away Day on April 24.

much to the information literacy of the residents of our state." The subscription cost to join the national cooperative is being subsidized by a Library Services and Technology Act grant. This means that any library in the state can add a logo to its website and get 24X7 chat reference coverage

Gates Foundation sponsors rural library advocacy workshop

By John DeBacher, Public Library Administration Consultant
Public Library Development Team

As part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's ongoing effort to support small rural libraries, the Foundation and the Public Library Association co-sponsored a one-day workshop to bring new advocacy skills to librarians from across the country. The workshop, *Promoting Public Libraries: Using Data to Effectively Build Support and Funding*, was held on March 21, 2006, at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston, prior to the PLA biannual Conference.

The one-day workshop focused on providing practical tools and assistance appropriate to small, rural libraries, including examples and tactical guidance on how to better advocate for sustained public funding for the libraries and access technologies for their patrons. Speakers included experienced library advocates, local and regional leaders, and others who shared innovative strategies and practical tools to help rural library staff more effectively communicate and advocate for their libraries.

Leanne Hathcock, Director of the Aztec Public Library in Aztec, New Mexico, discussed how her library had developed and conducted a needs and assets assessment and how it led to improvements in their facility and consequential increases in use and support. Beverly Devlin, Reference Consultant for the Mid-York Library System in New York, presented information on measuring a library's impact on the community, and coordinated small group discussions to develop concepts and tactics for gauging a library's impact.

A panel comprised of a mayor, a county commissioner, and an executive from a large charitable foundation discussed what factors resonate with decision makers when they listen to advocacy in consideration of funding requests. And, Eric Gorovitz, West Coast Office Director of the Alliance for Justice, spoke about building an advocacy plan and using data to amplify the outcome. He emphasized that library directors and trustees must not hesitate to advocate for their libraries and services and to ensure that the message is clear, concise, and supported by pertinent data.

Each state was invited to nominate three participants, including a representative from the state library agency. Wisconsin was represented by John DeBacher, Public Library Administration Consultant, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning; Cherie Sanderson, Director, Boulder Junction Public Library; and Maggie Waggoner, Director, Suring Area Public Library. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation paid for all transportation costs and lodging in Boston as well as registration to the Public Library Association Conference for those wishing to attend.

Wisconsin attendee Cherie Sanderson of the Boulder Junction Public Library thinks that the workshop came at just

the right time in the development of that library. The board had recently sent out a survey to determine needs for a building program, but had a poor response rate. "The workshop demonstrated to me that we did not create or administer our survey in the most successful way and that we can do it better. I was also pleased to hear about an impact study in addition to or instead of a needs assessment survey," Cherie reported.

Maggie Waggoner of the Suring Area Public Library said she will use the information from the workshop to assess needs and establish measurable outcomes. "I will be using what I learned as we move forward with our new building project, but I will also be using this in the future when planning library programs and setting and accomplishing long range goals for the library."

The three Wisconsin participants plan to present a program summarizing the workshop at the annual Wisconsin Public Library Association conference in this fall in Lake Delton. In the meantime, the tools and resources discussed or distributed at the workshop, as well as supplemental materials and online discussions are available on WebJunction at <http://webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=12801>. ☼

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Finally, there is one provision that relates to the organization of consolidated county libraries:

- A requirement that a city or village in a county that operates a consolidated county library must first obtain county board and county

library board approval before establishment of a library or participation in a joint library if the municipality lies wholly within the county. A county's denial may be appealed to the State Superintendent. ☼

BadgerNet conversion proceeding as scheduled

By Bob Bocher, Library Technology Consultant
Public Library Development Team

The networking office in the state's Department of Administration (DOA) is in the process of implementing a major upgrade to the state's BadgerNet telecommunications network. Staff on the Division for Libraries, Technology, and

Community Learning's Public Library Development team have been working for over a year with DOA and library system technical staff on issues related to implementing the new network.

Of the 2,100 BadgerNet circuits statewide to convert, 405 of these are in public libraries and branches. The remainder are in K-12 schools, higher education and state

government. Library installations started in January and thus far 160, (40%) of the libraries have had their new circuits installed. Starting in early May, there will be 15-20 libraries converted each week until the scheduled completion in mid-August. In some areas, like the Arrowhead Library System in Rock County, all the libraries have now been converted to the new network. In other systems, like the libraries in the Wisconsin Valley Library Service area, conversions will not start until early June. If your library has not had its circuit converted, and you do not have the scheduled date, contact your library system network staff. Technicians from the local phone company will visit each library to do the conversion. They will contact you several days beforehand to schedule a specific time. When your time is scheduled, be certain to then contact your system staff.

The new network will address some of the issues that libraries have had, especially with slow Internet access. With additional capacity built into the network it is hoped that the periodic times of slow access, for example in late afternoons, will be alleviated. The new network will also involve major changes to the state's distance education network, which primarily impacts the K-12 community.

If you have general questions on the new BadgerNet network, contact Bob Bocher (robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-266-2127) or visit <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/badgernet>. ☼

Attorney General issues opinion concerning library board authority

By Mike Cross, Director
Public Library Development Team

On April 7 the Department of Public Instruction received an opinion from the Wisconsin Attorney General's office in response to issues raised by the past president of the Brown County Library Board concerning the legal authority of the library board. The Attorney General opinion concludes:

"...that the library board and the library director as opposed to the county board and the county executive possess the authority to hire and fire library staff; determine the compensation and duties of library staff; hire the library director; determine the compensation of the library director; conduct or participate in the negotiation of labor agreements with library staff; make budget transfers within the library budget; carry forward

unexpended funds; and close library branches."

DPI also asked for clarification of the legality of the delegation of library board authority to another organization or official, since DLTCL has been asked a number of times whether a library board has the authority to delegate to the municipality or another official its responsibility to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with library employees. The Attorney General concludes that it is permissible for a library board to delegate certain limited functions to another official, but only if the delegation is accompanied by ascertainable standards to which the delegated authority is to be exercised.

The entire opinion is available as a PDF file here (Please note that the file name in the link is "ag_opinion_brown.pdf"): http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/ag_opinion_brown.pdf. ☼

Jessica Doyle commended for Read On Wisconsin

By **Kate Bugher**, School Library Media Consultant
Instructional Media and Technology Team

The Wisconsin Educational Media Association (WEMA) recently presented Jessica Doyle, Wisconsin's First Lady, with a commendation from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in recognition of her Read On Wisconsin program. Developed by Mrs. Doyle, a former teacher, Read On Wisconsin is a statewide book club geared to teachers, librarians, parents and students for the promotion of literacy and reading.

The club is divided into five age groups and new books are recommended monthly. Classes are encouraged to register to become official members of the book club and eligible for classroom books. The First Lady also hosts monthly Reading Days at the Residence and other Read On Wisconsin events.

Read on Wisconsin is in its second year. To date, over 900 students and teachers statewide have participated

in the program. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.readon.wi.gov>.



Kate Bugher, WEMA President; First Lady Jessica Doyle; Cara Cavin, WEMA AASL liaison

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